(a) whether it is a fact that enormous expenditure is incurred for propagating Hindi in the nationalised banks and if so what is the amount spent for the same upto the year 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expenditure of nationalised banks has shown a steep rise; and

(c) if so, what are the steps taken to minimise the expenditure on administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that nationalised banks do not make separate allocation for implementation of the official language (Hindi) policy. The expenditure on this item is included under establishment and other administrative expenditure.

(b) and (c) The expenditure figures of nationalised banks for the last three years do not indicate a steep rise. However, Reserve Bank of India have been impressing upon the banks the need for economising expenditure.

Request for Soft loan by UCO Bank to Reserve Bank of India

1784. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UCO bank has sought a Rs. 500 crore soft loan from Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, when did Government recognise the sickness in UCO bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not received any such request from UCO Bank.

(b) Performance of public sector banks is reviewed by the Government and Reserve Bank of India on an on-going basis. UCO Bank reported losses in their Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the first time for the year 1989-90.

Drug Trafficking in North Eastern Region

1785. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the whole of North Eastern Region and especially Barak Valley has turned into a hunting ground for drug traffickers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that police arrested a number of drug traffickers having link with international drug trafficking gang; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extension of closing date of remittance of foreign exchange scheme

1786. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 394 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th November, 1991 and state: